REMARKS

Claims 7-10 have been amended and new claims 11-14 have been added. Accordingly, claims 7-14 are pending in this application.

Telephone Interview

Applicants extend their appreciation to the Examiner for granting a Telephone Interview in the above-identified application on February 24, 2006. In the interview, the rejection of claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph was discussed. Applicants have amended the claims to include that the input speech is converted to voice data, referring for example to the disclosure of the voice input means 6 and voice recognition means 7. Additionally, the primary reference of Satoh, U.S. Patent No. 5,774,671, was discussed in the interview. Applicants assert that the reference does not include the step of generating a new customized sentence by inserting a word in a user specific vocabulary that is extracted from a set of registered user profile information, as claimed. Applicants specific arguments with respect to the differences between the claimed invention and the reference are set forth in the following remarks. No agreement was reached as a result of the telephone interview; and Applicants request reconsideration in view of the formal reply to the Office Action as presented herein.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7 and 10 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In particular, the claims have been amended to set forth that the customized sentences stored in the dictionary are used for recognizing speech input by a user that is converted into voice data and collated with the customized sentences. For support, Applicants refer to page 18, lines 9-11 and page 19, lines 3-10 of the specification, which sets forth that the voice input means 6 stores voice input in WAVE 201 in memory 12, and converts the input voice to a time series of feature vectors using voice recognition means 7. Further, the voice recognition means 7 performs collation by using the sentence dictionary (20, Fig. 15) having a time series of feature vectors (2014). See also page 19, line 21 - page 20, line 10 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 7-10 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rejected by Satoh, U.S. Patent No. 5,774,671 (Satoh) in view of Anderson et al., US Patent No. 5,878,423 (Anderson). Reconsideration of the rejection is requested for the following reasons.

According to the invention, customized sentences are stored in a dictionary 20 and used for speech recognition in a process of collating the user's speech input with the customized sentences. Satoh does not disclose generating a new customized sentence by inserting a word in a user specific vocabulary that is extracted from a set of registered user

profile information, as claimed by Applicants. Rather, Satoh discloses extracting a pattern of words from a dictionary having a format that is shown in Fig. 10.

In particular, according to Fig. 9 of Satoh, data inputted by the user as profile data extracted in Step S31. Then, the input data is compared with a uniquely systematized dictionary (Step S32) to determine whether an appropriate word is present (Step S33). If the appropriate word is present (hit), a dictionary pattern including the appropriate word is extracted in Step S34, and registered in the database. These steps are cited in the Office Action (page 5, lines 6-11) and relied upon for disclosing the claimed step of generating of a new customized sentence by inserting a word in a user specific vocabulary that is extracted from a set of registered user profile information. However, the extracted pattern is exemplified in Figs. 11 and 12 as merely being a hierarchical arrangement of related words, which are part of the dictionary. *See*, col. 6, lines 46-49 of Satoh, which explains "The connection of words is expressed as a pattern from classification first word to classification n-th word, and the words are connected in a tree shape from broader classification to narrower classification." Thus, the reference discloses extracting a dictionary pattern of related words, which is not comparable to inserting a word in a sentence template and generating a customized sentence.

Further, in reliance on Satoh, the Office Action mentions that the new sentence generated in Satoh can be changed in step S38 (Fig. 9). The change that is permitted, however, is not set forth in detail in the reference. The present invention combines a word extracted from a user-specific vocabulary and a sentence template having a slot into which the word is inserted to generate a customized sentence. This is not comparable to changing a

registered pattern of words, as in Satoh. Accordingly, the disclosure of the reference is not

sufficient to be relied upon for the rejection as set forth in the Office Action. Further,

although Anderson is used to teach a system in which a database of terms is used for specific

index categories, Anderson is unable to make up for the deficiencies in Satoh with respect to

disclosing or suggesting the generating of a new customized sentence by inserting a word in

user specific vocabulary that is extracted from a set of registered user profile information, as

claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection should be withdrawn.
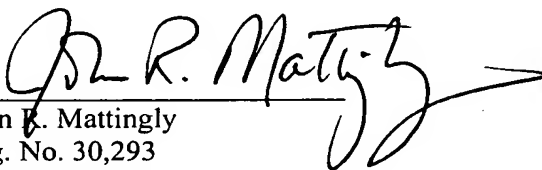

New Claims

New claims 11-14 are dependent claims that set forth additional limitations that are

not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. Applicants refer to page 19, lines 3-10 and

page 19, line 21 - page 20, line 10 of the specification, which sets forth that the voice input in

WAVE 201 is converted to a time series of feature vectors using voice recognition means 7,

which performs collation by using the sentence dictionary (20, Fig. 15) having a time series

of feature vectors (2014). Accordingly each of these claims should be allowed at least for

depending from an allowable base claim and further for being patentable over the art of

record.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of

Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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JRM/so
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